



Saint Gabriel
CATHOLIC PARISH

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A Walking Tour

**We're glad you've joined us for this walking tour of
St. Gabriel Catholic Parish.**

**A church is more than bricks and mortar—it is a sacred
space dedicated to the worship of God and
a reflection of the heavenly Jerusalem.**

**Here, through the celebration of the sacraments—
especially baptism and the Eucharist—God's people
encounter a foretaste of the Kingdom to come. As you
explore, you'll notice how the design, furnishings, and
sacred art all work together to express our Catholic
faith and guide us deeper into the mystery of God's
presence among us.**

Welcome

St. Gabriel Catholic Parish Church was established on July 1, 2002, from the merger of St. Columba of Colgate, St. Hubert of Hubertus, and St. Mary of Richfield. The church was dedicated on August 28, 2005.

The design was influenced by liturgical consultant Ron Zawilla. He beautifully and artistically married the historical significance and style of each of our individual parishes and accurately reflected the essence of our St. Gabriel Parish community.

When St. Gabriel Catholic Parish was built, it was deliberately placed at the highest point on the property and set back from the roads so that the approach to the building would have a processional quality.

The gathering space serves as a kind of hub, giving access to the parish offices, meeting rooms, a small parish kitchen, a vestry for the priest, and room for users and greeters.





Just inside the doors is the baptismal font. Living water overflows its container and fills the pool below. The pool, with its rectangular form and dark colors, recalls the tomb. Baptism is the dying and rising with Christ. New generations will be baptized here, and all who enter are invited to remember their baptism and renew its promises and graces with the sign of the cross.

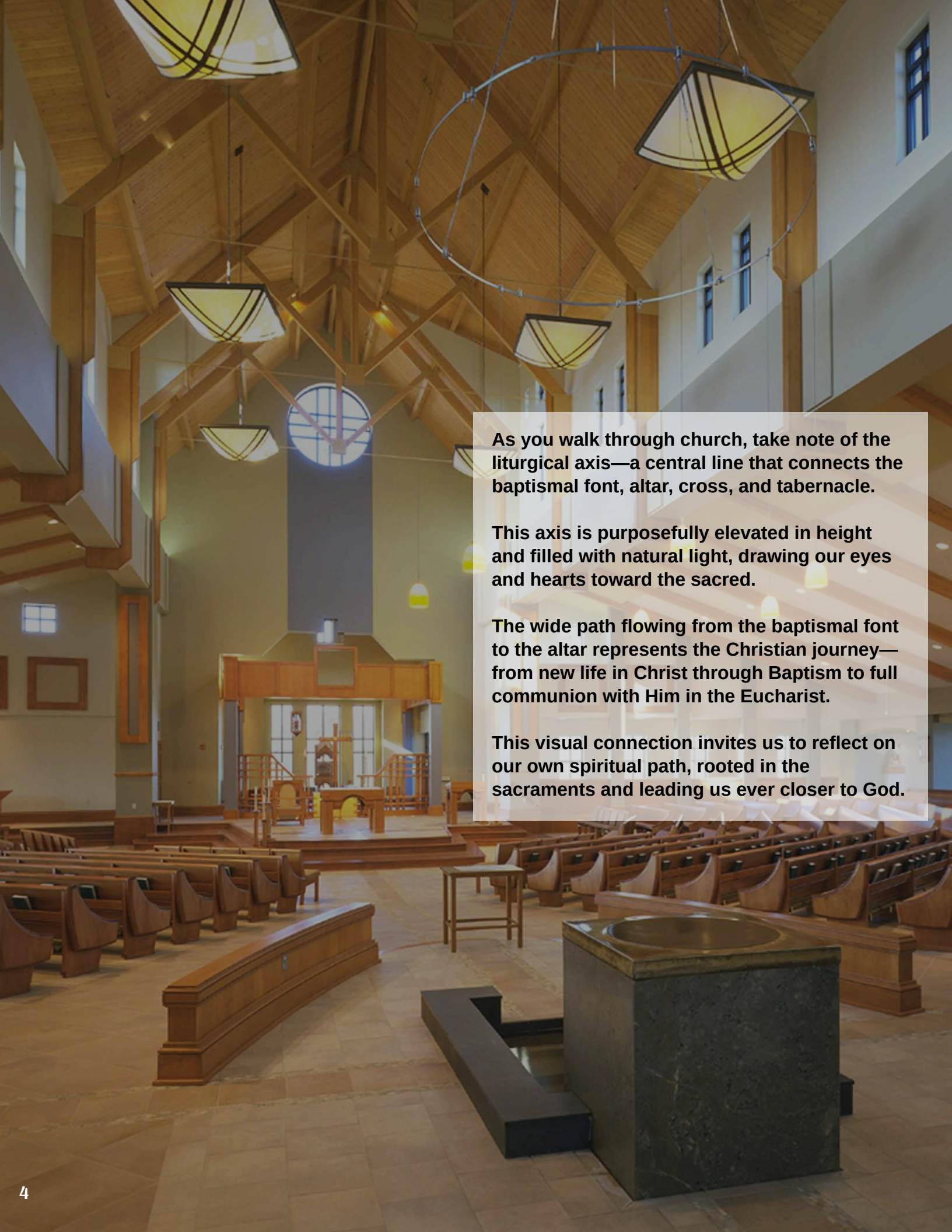
Near the font is the ambry, which houses the sacramental oils consecrated by the bishop during Holy Week.

CS - oil of catechuman
OI - oil of the sick
SC - sacred chrism



Baptism Clerestory Windows

These two windows show the morning and evening light, as well as the waters of life and regeneration flowing down. Both of these windows suggest that creation is still ongoing with the dawn of each new day, as well as the generations of parish families who gather to welcome new members.



As you walk through church, take note of the liturgical axis—a central line that connects the baptismal font, altar, cross, and tabernacle.

This axis is purposefully elevated in height and filled with natural light, drawing our eyes and hearts toward the sacred.

The wide path flowing from the baptismal font to the altar represents the Christian journey—from new life in Christ through Baptism to full communion with Him in the Eucharist.

This visual connection invites us to reflect on our own spiritual path, rooted in the sacraments and leading us ever closer to God.

The altar is the pre-eminent symbol of Christ in the church. It is fashioned from solid cherry, rosewood, and maple. The top of the altar reiterates the form of the baptismal font. In the center, a circle of maple rests in a square of cherry wood. The circle in the square symbolizes the marriage of heaven (the circle) and earth (the square). Five crosses of rosewood recall the five wounds of Christ -- and thus the sacrifice of the cross. The square and circle motif is repeated on all the other major furnishings of the church: the ambo, the chair, the crosses, the book of gospels, the tabernacle, and the eucharistic lamp.

The ambo is the place from which God's word is proclaimed and from which Christ speaks to us in the gospel.

The presider's chair symbolizes the fact that Christ still leads His church through the ministry of the priest.

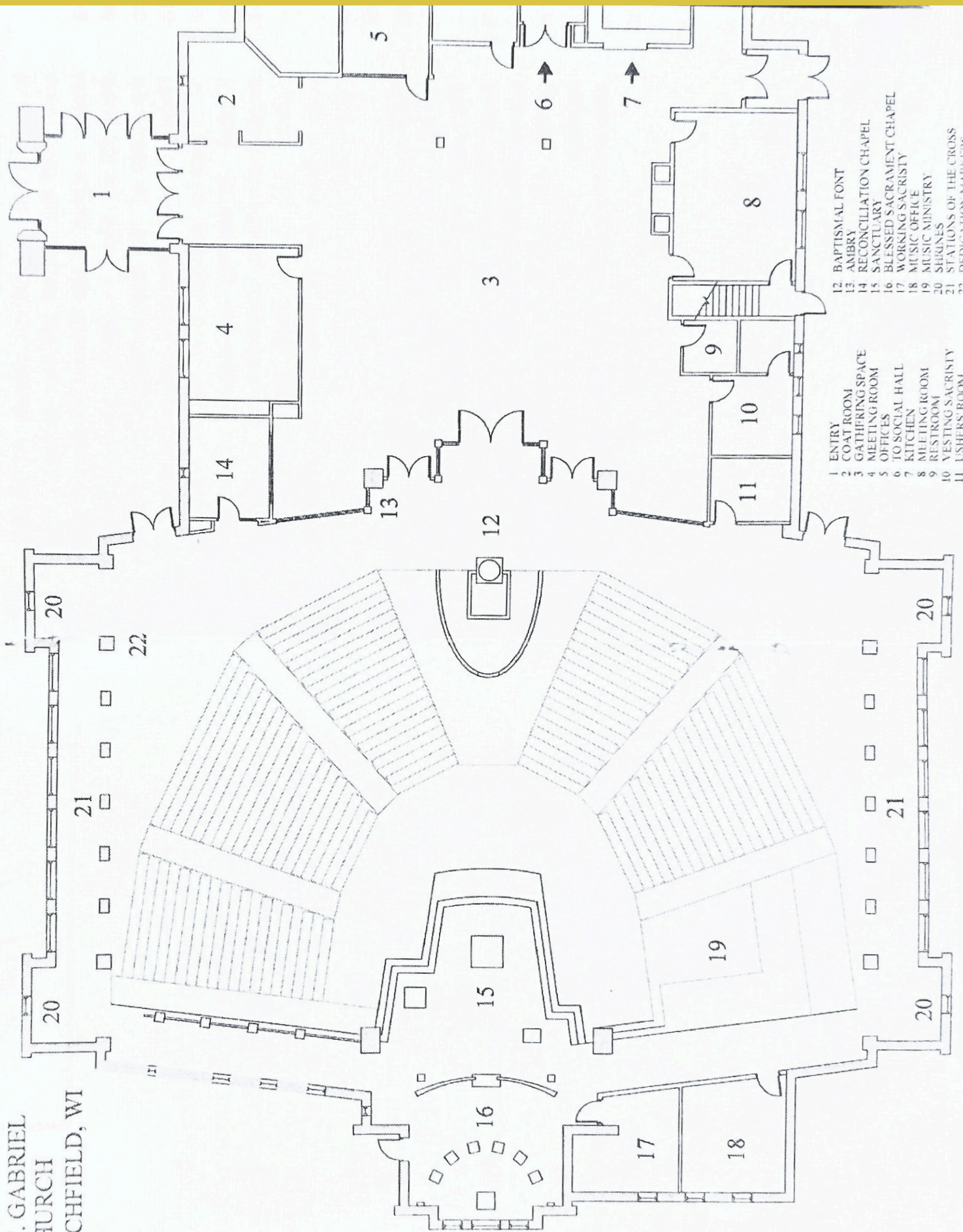
Directly behind the altar, the cross of Christ is placed in a setting of special dignity and honor. The cross is made up of three elements. First, there is a large, fixed cross outlined in metal and set against a backdrop of art glass. Light, coming through the art glass, is transformed, reminding us that the cross is the source of our illumination and all the graces we receive from God.

Next, there is a wooden cross about five feet in height. This cross of cherry (the same material as the altar) will be removed from its place each Good Friday to receive our veneration. In ancient Jerusalem, it was the wood of the True Cross that was venerated, and in other churches of Christendom, a cross in which relics of the True Cross were set.

Finally, there is the processional cross with a carved image of the crucified Lord, which will move with us and accompany us on our journeys.



ST. GABRIEL
CHURCH
RICHFIELD, WI



Beyond the altar, ambo, chair, and cross is a special, intimate space for the reservation of the blessed sacrament. The beautiful tabernacle from St. Columba is enthroned in an eucharistic tower under a canopy.

High above, the eucharistic lamp lets everyone entering the church know where the Eucharist is reserved. The burning candle near the tabernacle reminds us that Jesus is present in the Eucharist.



The chapel, with its own door from the outside, provides a place of peace, meditation, and prayer. In this place, we see the fulfillment of our Lord's promise to be with us always, even to the end of time. Along the outside walls of the church, on either side, is an ambulatory. The ambulatories lead to and from the eucharistic chapel.

At the four corners of the church are the four shrines. One houses a statue of the Blessed Mother brought from St. Mary's Chapel. Another houses the statue of St. Hubert brought from St. Hubert Chapel. The third houses the statue of St. Columba brought from St. Columba Chapel. The memory of the three original chapels is commemorated. The fourth chapel houses the Holy Family and a pedestal with a book for the people of the parish to record their prayer intentions.

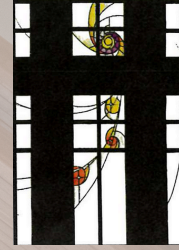
Finally, on the columns of the church are set the stations of the cross, brought from St. Columba. The stations begin and end with the altar and tabernacle -- signs of the resurrection.



Altar Clerstory Windows



*Left of Altar
Evening Star:
The window
depicts the
Nativity star,
the light of the
birth of Christ,
who is the
new creation,
symbolized by
the Seven
stars.*



*Right of Altar
Morning Star:
This window
depicts the
light of
resurrection.
The spiral that
flows from this
start is the
symbol of
eternity. The
three starts
below
represent the
three days
between the
death and
resurrection.*





Eucharistic Chapel Windows

At the center, we have the Eucharistic angels gathered with the symbols of the Eucharist's earthly wheat and grapes, divine chalice, and host. In the two flanking windows, we begin the Communion of Saints.



Altar Rose Window
St. Gabriel is depicted as
God's messenger

He is gathered with the symbols of the three merged parishes:

- St. Mary, the Lily
- St. Columba, the Celtic Cross
- St. Hubert, the Stag with Crucifix



The Holy Spirit Rose
(above the entrance of the church)

The rose window depicts seven doves representing the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The stars of heaven are in the background



Saint Gabriel
CATHOLIC PARISH & SCHOOL

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